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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- About 7 June 1955, immediately after the Soviet invitation to Chancellor Adenauer to visit Moscow, the Central Committee of the SED held a meeting which was attended by the members of the Politburo and by the cabinet ministers and state secretaries of the East German government (possibly only those who belong to the SED). Soviet technical experts also attended. The meeting was chiefly concerned with the exploitation of the 24th plenary session of the Central Committee. The Russians expressed severe criticism of the inefficient and bureaucratic operation of the East German government.
- A Politburo meeting was also held on or about 7 June. It was attended by Ambassador Georgi M. Pushkin, two high-ranking Soviet officers, and an unidentified representative of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). The Russians criticized the SED Politburo on a number of points, beginning with the statement that the East German population has no confidence in the Warsaw agreements; this they ascribed to poor Party work.
- Pushkin spoke of the students' strike at Greifswald and demanded an investigation. He asked when the SED will finally learn from its mistakes, and remarked that too many university professors have defected to the West already.
- With reference to the Politburo's application for increased allotments of raw material for steel mills and rolling plants in East Germany, the representative of the CPSU said that no increase can be granted at present because political developments must be taken into consideration, and unnecessary investments are not now feasible. Furthermore, he said, the other people's democracies must not be weakened in favor of the DDR.
- The representative of the CPSU stated that Soviet credits which had been granted to the SED Politburo have not been used, as intended, for the mechanization and technical improvement of the VEBs, but for salaries for the excessively large apparatus of the SED and mass organizations and for supervisors appointed by the government.
- The representative of the CPSU said that increased productivity of the labor force is possible only through technical improvement of the VEBs. The

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population's dissatisfaction is justified, and the abnormally high absenteeism due to "illness" ought to serve as a warning to the Politburo. Soviet credits for certain items will be reduced or completely abolished in order to force a change in the policy of the Politburo.

7. He criticized the FDGB, and particularly the work of Herbert Warnke, chairman of the FDGB. As the largest mass organization, he said, the FDGB has the task of conveying the wishes and opinions of the working class to higher levels, and should not merely carry out orders. The practice of putting pressure on non-members to join the FDGB should cease. In this respect, the FDGB should learn from the trade unions in the Soviet Union.
8. The CPSU representative alluded to the infractions of the law, which, he said, have reached a degree which is no longer tolerable. If certain laws are obsolete, new ones should be adopted. Lawless conditions cannot continue to exist, since the people know well how to cope with the laws (sic).
9. Pushkin accused Walter Ulbricht of disrupting the Berlin railroad network without consulting the Soviet authorities. He said Ulbricht's measures were improper, especially in view of the precarious situation of Berlin. President Wilhelm Pieck interjected that not even he had been forewarned of the action concerning the railroad net.
10. An argument developed when Pushkin told Pieck that the possibility of German unification must be considered realistically and appropriate plans must be made. It was mentioned that Pieck, Minister President Otto Grotewohl, Friedrich Ebert, Hermann Matern, and Warnke had devoted serious thought to this eventuality. Ulbricht, Karl Schirdewan, Erich Mückenberger, Alfred Neumann, and Willi Stoph complained about the lack of collective work, since they had not been informed that any planning was being done. Ulbricht declared that it is self-evident that in the event of reunification Germany cannot do without a nationalized economy. The CPSU representative replied that this question remains open.
11. Ulbricht raised the question whether, during actual negotiations for reunification, East German delegates should or would sit at the same table with the militarists and imperialists of West Germany. The CPSU representative replied that the Soviet Union visualized the negotiations as follows: On the West German side a commission elected by the West German population will be authorized to negotiate; if the commission contains militarists and imperialists, this will be an expression of the will of the West German people. Under such circumstances there will be no choice but to negotiate with them.

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